

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 FEA-01 AGR-03

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-03 FRB-01 H-01

INR-10 INT-01 L-02 LAB-01 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-14 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-04

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 SWF-01 DRC-01 /081 W

----- 042956

R 081850Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4711

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3289

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS ETRD EEC CAN

SUBJ EC-CANADA AGREEMENT

REFS (A) OTTAWA 3188; (B) STATE 215361

1. ON OCTOBER 4 ECON COUNSELOR MET AGAIN WITH SHANNON
AT EXTAFF AND INFORMED HIM OF U.S. POSITION ON
EC-CANADA AGREEMENT AS CONTAINED REF B WHICH CROSSED
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IN TRANSMISSION WITH REF A. SHANNON EXPRESSED

APPRECIATION AND SAID GOC WOULD TAKE DUE NOTE OF U.S. VIEWS.

2. RE POSSIBLE JOINT STATEMENT IN BRUSSELS AT TIME OF PM TRUDEAU'S VISIT, SHANNON SAID IT STILL NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHETHER ANY WRITTEN DOCUMENT WILL EMERGE. GOC OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN EXPRESSION OF EC WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE FURTHER QUESTION OF CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP. DISCUSSION OF CLOSER OR MORE INSTITUTIONALIZED EC-CANADA RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN DRAGGING ON FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS AND GOC WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT ENTER A NEW PHASE. IF EC AGREES, GOC WOULD WISH TO PUT UNDERSTANDING ON PUBLIC RECORD BUT WHETHER THIS WOULD TAKE FORM OF PRESS COMMUNIQUE, ANNOUNCEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE OR SOME OTHER WAY IS COMPLETELY OPEN AT PRESENT.

3. SHANNON SAID WE COULD BE ASSURED THAT GOC RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS AND, ON BASIS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN PREPARATIONS FOR OTTAWA VISIT OF TANAKA, WHITLAM, ETC. AS WELL AS THRONE SPEECH AND OTHER RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT GLOBAL NATURE OF PROBLEMS AND NEED FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION WERE IN FRONT OF PM'S MIND. HE SAID HE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF MULTILATERAL ASPECTS WERE NOT PROMINENT IN TALKS IN BOTH PARIS AND BRUSSELS.

4. RE NATURE OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT THAT MIGHT EMERGE FROM ANY EC-CANADA DIALOGUE, SHANNON SAID SITUATION IS STILL OPEN AND FLUID. GOC HAS NO INTENTION OF ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT THAT WOULD AFFECT EXISTING GATT RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AND WAS NOT SEEKING ANY PREFERRED POSITION BUT IT DID SEE MERIT IN FORMAL RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE OF TRADE AND PERHAPS OTHER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE FORMAL BASIS FOR PERIODIC EC-CANADA CONSULTATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO ECON COUNSELOR'S REPEATED PROBING OF REASONS FOR THIS FELT NEED ON PART OF GOC, SHANNON OBSERVED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS ARE IMPORTANT AND, WHILE AGREEING THAT U.S. AND EC APPEARED ABLE TO CONSULT SATISFACTORILY ON REGULAR BASIS WITHOUT CONTRACTUAL BILATERAL AGREEMENT, SAID "CANADA IS NOT THE UNITED STATES."

5. COMMENT: AS GOC STATEMENT TO EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS (REF A) MAKES CLEAR, GOC APPROACH IS

BASED ON POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DESIRE TO DIVERSIFY
RELATIONSHIPS AND TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT IDENTITY
FOR CANADA AND NOT TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE ON
LOGICAL NEED FOR TRADE AGREEMENT. IT IS UNLIKELY
THAT ARGUMENTS ABOUT, FOR EXAMPLE, POSSIBLE DOWN-
GRADING OF GATT, WILL DISSUADE GOC FROM ITS PRESENT COURSE
BUT CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO
MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO PROBLEMS WILL KEEP THIS ASPECT
IN FRONT OF POLICYMAKERS AND MAY INFLUENCE PUBLIC
PRESENTATION OF GOC POSITION IN DESIRABLE DIRECTION.
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